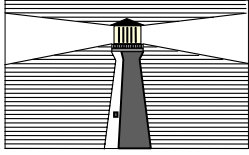


THE HARBOUR LIGHT



The Official Newsletter of
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc.
PO Box 1026
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
VOLUME # 103 ISSUE # 3 May 2003

Web Site Address: <http://FishermansHeadquarters.com/VHFC>
E-mail Address: VHFCInfo@aol.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING: 02 MAY 2003
8 P.M at the Community Center

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 09 MAY 2003
at the Community Center on Mill Creek Rd.
7:30 PM: Doors open early so come help set up.
7:45 PM: Meeting Starts with Club Business:

- ❖ W. Flounder Fish of the Month Award
- ❖ Membership Survey Status
- ❖ Update - Weakfish Tournament
- ❖ Fishing Discussion-All Present
- ❖ Break
- ❖ Presentation by Jim Hutchinson & his son on Weakfishing in Barnegat Bay

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Ray Williams

We had a good membership meeting on April 11th with 34 members attending on a cold, miserable Friday evening. Thank you all for your loyalty to the club. Our guest speaker, Nick Cocco, gave a very interesting talk on VHF radios.

Our next meeting is Friday May 9th & our guest speaker will be Jim Hutchinson & his son who will speak to us on Weakfishing in the bay. Please give some consideration to entering our Weakfish Tournament on June 7th.

Fishing, as of this date, is off to a slow start due to the poor fishing weather & cold temperatures. However, fishing could explode any day now. I still don't see a lot of boats in the water in my neighborhood; it's just been too miserable to even work on your boat.

I'm looking for feedback on our last meeting. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Hope to see you all at our May meeting!

THE 2003 SURVEY-INTERIM REPORT by

John Nonnenmacher

We are still sorting through the responses provided by the 55 members who responded to our survey package. A preliminary report will be presented to the VHFC Board of Directors on Friday May 2.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Ken Hansen

We have \$3,268.58 in the checking account. (ED. Note: The club's Money Market Account has had no deposit or withdrawal in the past year).

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR DUES AND RENEWAL FORM

Only members who have paid their 2003 dues will receive the June newsletter and other mailings.

Renewals are due no later than 09 May 2000.
The 2003 membership renewal forms are on page 5 of this newsletter.

2003 FISH OF THE MONTH by George Fruh

Congratulations to Paul Turi. He caught the Fish of the Month for March & April. His winter flounder was weighed in as 1 lb. 14 oz. at 4PM on 4/28/03. Ed Sidell had been in the lead with a 1 lb. 7 oz. Fish.

The Fish of the Month for May is Blackfish.

2003 CALENDAR UPDATE

Ed Cherry (club membership #1) will be our July 7 guest speaker; addressing fly fishing for weakfish

WE HAVE A NEW SOURCE OF DISCOUNTS FOR CLUB MEMBERS by Dick Vesper

Ray Williams met the manager of First Bridge Marina and Kayaks during Southern Regional's recent fisherman's flea market. They agreed it would be mutually constructive if First Bridge provided VHFC members with 10% discounts on bait and tackle. First Bridge is also a major seller and renter of kayaks – the kind Jay Mann recommends we use for fishing.

First Bridge Marina and Kayaks is located in the heart of the Great Bay Wildlife Management Area. To get there, take Route 9 South to Tuckerton. Go 1/4 mile past the Rt. 539 intersection and turn left at the fork onto Great Bay Boulevard. Go 2 mi.; they are just over the first bridge and on the right. Their web site is <http://www.fbkayak.com/>

The address and phone number are provided on the last page of this newsletter.

BOATING BILLS by David Sikorski

The state senate recently passed the Shallow Water Bill 39 to zero. This bill bans the use of power vessels, in water less than 12", in excess of no wake speed. In response to concerns voiced by fishermen, the bill was amended to allow the operation of a boat under "muscular power". When we get the full text of the bill, we will post it on the web site. Another boating bill is still under

consideration. This one would require most boaters to pass a certified safe boating course. We will provide more details when this one passes.

FISHING TIPS BY Ray Williams

Many years ago, when I moved to Manahawkin, I decided to learn about salt water fishing. I had been a fresh water fisherman all of my life with a little time spent surf fishing in Point Pleasant. I visited several local bait shops & finally found one I liked. I asked the owner of the shop how to learn about local fishing spots. His advice was to find a shop you like & to spend money there. When you think about it, it makes a lot of sense. Over the years, I have seen so many situations to prove him right about this advice.

Many times, I've observed a fisherman come into my local shop with a new reel he bought at Kmart & say something to the effect of "I bought this at Kmart but they don't put line on the reels there." As the customer waits for the line to be put on his reel, he starts asking for info on the hot spots. Usually, the answers he gets are very general such as "try the middle grounds; a lot of fish're being caught there."

Sometimes we try to save a few cents on lures or a few dollars on reels & rods and don't realize that by patronizing a good local shop, we can benefit ourselves as well as the shop owner. If you talk to your local guy, he is going to recommend tackle that will work best for the fishing you are planning on doing. Also, as he sees that you are patronizing his shop for more than bait, he will open up with more accurate & specific fishing info on local action. Do you open up to some guy you don't know when he asks where to fish? Probably not, but you are more likely to share your info with the guys you know. The bait & tackle shop owner is going to give the best advice to his best customers. Why not become one? After all, you probably have a bunch of cheap lures in that tackle box that haven't caught anything!

BONEFISHING ON GRAND CAYMAN by Dave Sikorski

In December 2001 my wife, Kathi, and I took a trip to the Cayman Islands, for a nice relaxing vacation and a little warm weather fishing.

Although the Cayman Islands are better known for their spectacular diving reefs, there are also many species of sportfish available along the beaches of the island: Tarpon, Snook, Permit and Bonefish can be found inshore, many species of Grouper and Snapper can be found on the reefs, and further off shore (less than a mile in some cases) you can find Marlin, Swordfish, Dolphin and Wahoo. There are probably others I don't know about, but my trip was focused on Bonefish, using my fly rod.

Before the trip, I only knew a little about these incredible sportfish, from watching the fishing shows on OLN, TNN and ESPN. If you have never tried Bonefishing before, I highly recommend it. It's like no other type of fishing I have ever tried.

Bonefish like to feed in extremely shallow water along the edges of the shoreline and on sand bars. Because of the shallow water, they are extremely aware of anything that happens around them and are very easy to spook. This is truly sportfishing. With all the technology available to anglers today, it still takes keen eyesight to locate these fish as they are feeding. The tell tale indicator is their tail. Bonefish feed on small crustaceans hiding in grasses growing in the shallows along the beach and on sand bars.

As they stick their nose into the weeds, the top half of their tail pops out of the water for a brief instant. When feeding solo or in small schools, which seems to be the typical case based on my short career here, you can literally blink and miss it. The other way to locate Bonefish is by the milky appearance in the water. Once they have popped their nose into the grass, they usually kick up a little silt. You can actually see puffs of silt appearing in the water as they feed.

OK, now that we know how to locate these incredible creatures, now comes the hard part... presenting the fly in front of the fish without spooking him. This was not easy for me, as my fly casting skills have not yet been perfected (Oh did I mention the 5 to 10 knot winds with occasional gusts to 15?) One time I dropped my line right on top of a school of 6 feeding fish; I never saw so many fish scatter so quickly. And we thought Weakfish in NJ were easy to spook!

Once we have located the fish and successfully positioned our fly in front of our prey, we need to entice him to bite on our offering. My guide, Captain Ron Ebanks, showed me how to strip the line very slowly, but with a vibrating-like motion, so as to impart a slight jigging motion as the fly bounces along the top of the weeds below.

If all this isn't enough to get your heart pumping with anticipation, watch out when Mr. Bonefish takes the fly and runs like the wind! First he runs away from you, then he runs right back at you so quickly its nearly impossible to take up the line as he approaches, then suddenly the reel is screaming again feeding line to this formidable opponent.

My first bonefish made about 5 or 6 runs before he was ready to be landed. We quickly, took a picture of this 2 pounder then unhooked, revived and released him so he could provide the same thrill for the next fortunate Bonefish angler.

I had several more chances that day, but could not put the fly in the right spot or just could not impart the proper action to entice the strike. What amazed me the most was the level of concentration this type of fishing requires. I booked a 4 hour charter and only caught one fish. The hunting and searching was so intense that the 4 hours seemed to fly by, making me wish I had booked the whole day.

I am now looking forward to applying some of the same principles of hunting for fish on our local flats. I believe we could catch Stripped Bass, Bluefish and

possibly even Fluke using some of the same techniques used in Bonefishing. So if you see a guy fishing the sandbars with a fly rod this summer, it will probably be me, or any one else I can convince to try this awesome type of fishing.

May you have plenty of backing, for the long run..

FISH PICTURE by Dick Vesper

Immediately to the right is a picture of Bill Logan (member) with a fish he claims to have caught. It was rotated to fit the space. He is, obviously, very pleased. I had to get it into this issue. Can you identify the species (of fish)?



WE NEED STATE AND FEDERAL FREEDOM TO FISH ACTS TO PROTECT OUR BASIC RIGHT TO FISH Dick Vesper

John, a club member, asked me to address an article he had cut out of a recent, local paper. The article, titled "Fishing Should Be Outlawed", was written by Dan Paden of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). In the article, Paden presents his case against fishing based on his recalling "scenes of misery" from his childhood fishing experiences while fishing with his family.

That article is a good reminder of the very serious threats posed by powerful organizations that want to stop all fishing. Some even want to go as far as banning the ownership of living pets of any kind.

We must remain vigilant. There are extremely wealthy trust funds and rich benefactors that back organizations like PETA, The American Littoral Society, Clean Ocean Action and many others. These organizations are directly responsible for shutting down fishing in some prime sections of our Pacific Coast. They would like to stop all fishing.

We cannot be complacent. Supporting JCAA and RFA is only part of what we must do. Additionally, we need to be careful & read the fine print before we support any "nice sounding" legislation or organization. JCAA and RFA have learned the hard way that you have to be careful whom you trust.

Last, but not least, we must support legislation that will protect our right to fish.

The good news for fishermen is that on February 10, 2003 Assemblyman Robert J. Smith (D-4th), Chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and Assemblyman Steve Corodemus (R-11th) introduced the NJ Freedom to Fish Act. The pending bills (A3326 & S2323) establish requirements that must be met before any of the state's marine waters can be closed off to rod and reel fishing. It hasn't passed as yet.

The RFA promoted this NJ legislation at the state level. JCAA also supports Assemblymen Smith and

Corodemus to insure passage of this legislation. Now comes the hard work. JCAA will work with the RFA gathering support throughout the state for this legislation. You do not need to act as yet. JCAA is working the matter and trying to keep the bills from getting modified for the worst.

The latest draft of the NJ Freedom to Fish Act on the state's web site prohibits closures to rod and reel fishing unless there is a clear indication that this fishing is causing a specific conservation problem and that less severe measures will not be adequate. This bill would also require periodic review of any closures, a scientific basis for the size of any closure, and provisions to reopen areas to rod and reel fishing whenever the basis for the closure no longer exists. Finally, this bill establishes requirements that must be met before any state marine waters can be closed to rod and reel fishing. But some unfavorable, drafted changes are "threatening" the worth of the bill.

Remember, The NJ bill does not cover the EEZ (3-mile mark to 200-mile mark). That is why federal legislation is sorely needed.

Last year, the only NJ legislator to cosponsor the federal Freedom to Fish Act was Congressman Saxton. We need to do better. The federal Freedom to Fish Act (S.1314 and H.R.3104) amends the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to prohibit any fishery management plan prepared by a Regional Fishery Management Council or the Secretary of Commerce from closing areas to recreational fishing unless very well defined technical criteria are satisfied.

When the time comes and the bills are support-worthy, we will ask you to write/email to your local NJ Senators and Assemblymen and support this legislation. If you ever need help finding names and addresses, ask a Board Member at the next meeting or look it up on our club's web site.

We must diligently guard and protect our fishery.

BOATS FOR SALE

Jim Brooker is selling his garage-stored, 1989, 16 ft., aluminum Lowe & 50 HP Mariner with power tilt & trim, low hours; 1998 Calkin Trailer; fish finder; VHF; 2 anchors; water skis; and 2 jackets; spare gas tank & more. Was used thru last season and winterized. Runs well. If interested, contact Jim Brooker at (609) 361-1030 or (703) 938-8027 or e-mail to jjbrooker@msn.com.

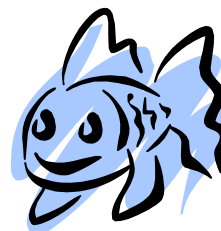
George Fruh is selling his boat; a 1976 21 ft. Stamas with enclosed pilot station, sleeps two, powered by a 1986 175HP EFI Johnson with dual batteries, trolling motor bracket, outriggers & S.S. prop. New water pump and lower seals in 2002. Includes porta-potti, anchor, lines, handheld spotlight, preservers, & more: all in very good condition. Asking \$3,500. Call George at (609) 597-4588.

**5th ANNUAL VHFC HOLIDAY
WEAKFISH TOURNAMENT AND SOCIAL**

1. **Tournament Date:** Saturday, June 7, 2003 - RAIN or SHINE
2. **Fishing Time:** Dawn till 2:00 PM - Weigh in 2:00 to 3:00 PM sharp
3. **Boat Captain must be VHFC member**
4. **Each Captain may have up to 3 non-member anglers on his boat**
5. **Each fisherman must pay \$10.00 entry fee (regular or junior) before the event**
6. **Only one fish can be entered for each fisherman**
7. **All fishing must be by boat with rod and reel**
8. **Fishing boundaries are Barnegat Inlet to Wreck Inlet in bay waters only**
9. **Prizes will be awarded as follows for heaviest fish**



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Place | 50% of entry fees |
| 2 nd Place | 30% of entry fees |
| 3 rd Place | 10% of entry fees |



10. **Ties will be settled by length of fish**
*That angler must catch any fish weighed in
11. **Weigh-in will be at the house of Don Longstreet (28 Ronnie Drive, Beach Haven West)**
Social, for entrants & spouse only, will be from 2-4 PM (snacks, food, refreshments)

*All VHFC and IGFA rules will apply

ENTRY FORM	NAME	Amount	
VHFC Member (Name)		@\$10 =	
Guest (Name)		@\$10 =	
Guest (Name)		@\$10 =	
Guest (Name)		@\$10 =	
BOAT NAME (if applicable)		Total	

- Signed entry forms and related fees can be mailed to VHFC, Tournaments, PO Box 1026, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.
- Each captain is responsible for the safety of his or her boat and all the people aboard.
- Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc. does not inspect the boats or assess the training and experience of the captain or crew.
- Each captain is responsible for all the decisions regarding the safe operation of their vessels, including the decision to leave the dock.
- Event dates are scheduled well in advance of any weather forecast. Conditions necessary for safe operation are different for different vessels and captain and crew experience levels. The captain of a participating vessel who signs this entry form agrees to take full responsibility for all decisions affecting the safe operation of his vessel and agrees to indemnify and hold the club harmless from any claims made by anyone affected by the operation of the captain's vessel.

Captain's Name: _____ Signature _____

VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
2003 Form for Member Renewals and New Applications
MAIL DUES (Checks only) FOR \$35.00 PAYABLE TO "VHFC" TO:
VHFC MEMBERSHIP
PO BOX 1026
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050
Dues for renewals are due by May 9, 2003

Name*: _____ Member #: _____ Nickname: _____

Signature*: _____ Date: __/__/____ Note: Both * items must be completed.

Renewals: Please insert any changes from 2002 Membership list.

New Applicants: Please complete all of the following:

Name of Spouse:	
Principle Address:	Shore Address:
City/St/Zip:	City/St/Zip:
Phone:	Phone:
Fax:	Fax:
E-Mail:	E-Mail:

Would you like to receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail? (circle): Yes No

Boat Owners, please complete the following:

Name of Boat: _____ Length (ft.): _____

Equipment on Boat (circle): VHF CB RADAR GPS LORAN FISH FINDER

VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
Junior Angler Application Form for 2003
MAIL DUES (Checks only) FOR \$10.00 PAYABLE TO "VHFC" TO:
VHFC JUNIOR ANGLER
PO BOX 1026
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050
Dues for renewals are due by May 9, 2003

APPLICANT : Please complete the following each year (one sheet per Junior Angler)

Name*:	Member #:	Nick Name:
Signature:	Junior Angler's E-Mail:	
Home Address:	Home Phone:	

Would you like to receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail? (circle): Yes No

SPONSOR:

SPONSORING MEMBER'S INFORMATION (ALL ARE REQUIRED EACH YEAR)

By completing the following, the Sponsor takes full responsibility to accompany and supervise the applicant's behavior and ensure the applicant's well being during and en route to and from any club activity or event and further certifies possession of the legal authority to do so.

Further, the sponsor affirms that the applicant will reach 18 years of age after May 9, 2003.

Sponsor's Name*:	Sponsor's Member #:
Signature*:	Date:* __/__/____
Relation to Applicant*:	

Junior Angler Boat Owners, please complete the following: Note: Five * items must be completed.

Name of Boat: _____ Length (ft.): _____

Equipment on Boat (circle): VHF CB RADAR GPS LORAN FISH FINDER

**VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers:

President	Ray Williams (978-1480)
1 st Vice President	Open
2 nd Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Ken Hansen
Secretary	Dave Sikorski

Newsletter	Dick Vesper (494-0263)
Weigh Master/Awards	George Fruh
Library	Jim McGrath
Printing	Bill Logan
Website	Dave Sikorski
	John Kerstanski

All Past Presidents, not listed above, are non-voting Board members.

Trustees

Sergeant at Arms	Charlie Kochka
Weigh Master/Awards	George Fruh
Recruiting	Ray Williams
Membership Data Base	John Nonnenmacher
Hands-on Sessions	Steve Cook
Guest Speakers	Bill Dabney
Immediate Past President	Don Longstreet

2003 Tournament Chairmen

Weakfish Tournament	Don Longstreet & Bill Dabney
South Bay Day	Ray Williams & Charlie Kochka
Reef Fishing Event	Basil Dubrosky
Surf Tournament	Steve Cook & John Nonnenmacher

**Manahawkin, NJ 08050
PO Box 1026
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc.**

The following have offered a discount with the presentation of current VHFC Membership Card Discounts normally do not apply to items that are fair traded or items on sale		
FISHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS Causeway, Ship Bottom, NJ 494-5739 10% discount on bait & tackle	BOBBIES 7 th & Bay Ave., Barnegat Light, NJ 494-1345 10% discount on bait & tackle	TIP'S HARDWARE West Creek, NJ 296-3192 10% on bait, tackle & supplies
THE CHUM BUCKET BAIT & TACKLE 381 Rte. 9, West Creek, NJ 294-2500 10% discount on bait & tackle	CAUSEWAY BOAT RENTALS On the LBI Causeway 494-1371 10% discount on bait and tackle.	CLARKE'S MARINE SUPPLY Tuckerton, NJ 294-0166 15% off on OMC, etc. parts 10% off on marine supplies & tackle
ISLAND COVE MARINE CENTER 2601 Central Ave., Ship Bottom, NJ 494-8100 10% discount on bait & tackle	THE BOAT SHOPS 756 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin, NJ 597-1271 10% discount on regular prices	BARNEGAT LIGHT BAIT & TACKLE Bay Avenue & 15 th St., Barnegat Lt. 494-4566 10% discount on bait & tackle
FIRST BRIDGE MARINA & KAYAKS 500 Great Bay Boulevard, Tuckerton 296-1888 10% discount on bait & tackle	THIS SPACE AVAILABLE	THIS SPACE AVAILABLE